

<http://www.vietcatholic.net/News/Html/67306.htm>

A delegation from **US Committee for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)** has been in Vietnam for more than a week to meet with dissidents and Christians. However, Vietnam government has made its best effort to prevent such meetings.

As Vietnam continues to demonstrate a disturbing disregard for fundamental human rights, **USCIRF** has called on US State Department to re-designate Vietnam among the worst violators of religious freedom and demand the unconditional release of all prisoners of concern. Further, a USCIRF delegation led by Mr. Michel Cromatie has been in Vietnam since May 12 to meet with the political dissidents and Christians throughout Vietnam.

The **USCIRF** visitation has started with a meeting with Vietnam Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem on May 12. Khiem reassured the **USCIRF** that "Vietnam always puts in every effort to make sure citizens' religious rights are protected". However the statement made by this high ranking government official remains a far cry from reality. His government has been applying strict measures to prevent those who are on the delegation's list to be visited.